

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Potter (U.S. 5,262,030).

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Potter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3-8 to further define the invention, and added new claims 9-16. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are pending for consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Potter (US 5,262,030), and claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Potter. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as being based upon a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features recited in amended independent claim 1, and hence dependent claims 2-8.

Independent claim 1, as amended, requires at least “a plurality of electromagnets formed having different geometrical group cell patterns on the fixed plate.” The Office Action alleges that the elements 50 in FIGS. 10 and 11 of Potter are the “plurality of electromagnets,” as claimed. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In contrast to Applicant’s claimed invention, Potter teaches elements 50 each having a square geometry arranged in a matrix configuration pattern (in FIG. 10), and elements 50 each having a circular geometry arranged in a hexagonal configuration pattern (in FIG. 11).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Potter neither teaches nor suggests at least "a plurality of electromagnets formed having different geometrical group cell patterns on the fixed plate," as recited by independent claim 1, and hence dependent claims 2-8.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) should be withdrawn because the applied art does not teach or suggest the novel combination of features clearly required in amended independent claim 1, and hence, dependent claims 2-8.

New Claims 9-16

Applicant has added new claims 9-16 to further define the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 9-16 are allowable for at least their dependence upon independent claim 1, and for the individual features they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

If there are any other fees due in connection with the re-filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A sputtering system for depositing a thin film on a substrate, comprising:
 - a vacuum chamber;
 - a support for supporting the substrate in the vacuum chamber;
 - a target arranged to oppose the support;
 - a fixed plate formed on a first side of the target; and
 - a plurality of electromagnets formed having different geometrical group cell patterns on the fixed plate [~~in a cell pattern~~].

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein ~~the cell pattern includes a plurality of groups of the electromagnets, each group being~~ the geometrical group cell patterns include first and second groups that are separately controlled.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) The system according to claim 3, wherein the first group cell pattern ~~plurality of groups of the electromagnets~~ includes at least a first group of the plurality of electromagnets having one of a triangular, pentagonal, and hexagonal array pattern.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

5. (Amended) The system according to claim 4, wherein the second group cell pattern [plurality of groups of the electromagnets] includes at least a second group of the plurality of electromagnets having one of a triangular, pentagonal, and hexagonal array pattern.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) The system according to claim 5, wherein the first group cell pattern of the plurality of electromagnets is independently controlled from the second group cell pattern of the plurality of electromagnets.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the geometrical group cell patterns include first and second group cell patterns that include [cell pattern includes] a matrix array pattern of the plurality of electromagnets.

8. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the geometrical group cell patterns include first and second group cell patterns that include [cell pattern includes] a hexagonal array pattern of the plurality of electromagnets.